4th December 1947]

Alleged holding of stocks of foodgrains by certain public men of the Coimbatore district.

* 155 *Q.*—Sri S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that certain public men in Coimbatore district were instructing the ryots about September 1947 not to deliver their stocks of foodgrains to the Government but to hold them by so as to secure very high prices for their stock ;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to give the names of the public men above referred to, and their occupations; and

(*c*) what action the Government took against the said public men?

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) No action has been taken against them."

Sri S. B. ADITYAN :—" Do the Government realize that their refusal to give the names of the public men will create an impression that they are shielding those who disobey the law and are guilty of anti-social conduct? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir, for this reason that it is very difficult to get at the particular men and prosecute them. It was on some information received by the Government that a press communique was issued asking them to surrender paddy and not to be misguided. Therefore action on the basis of rumours against some people does not arise."

Sri S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are we to take it that the Government have not taken action against the public men who were guilty of such misconduct? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If there were specific charges, the Government would have taken action against them."

Provision of electricity from Mirzapuram.

* 156 *Q.*—Sri B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a memorandum, dated 2nd April 1947, or thereabout submitted to the Minister for Public Works in connection with the provision of and extension of electricity from Mirzapuram to Kotapalli, Katrenipad and Gopavaram villages and Mirzapuram to Kattarepalli, Billarapalli and Madicherla villages;

(*b*) if so, whether any steps have been taken in regard to the same, if not why not; and

(*c*) whether any report was called for from the departmental officer concerned and whether it will be laid on the table of the House?